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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

COPIES TO:  
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USOAS  
RF(rs)

December 2, 1977

Dear Dr. Aguilar:

Thank you for your letter of November 11 in which you express hope that the United States will ratify the American Convention on Human Rights (The Pact of San Jose) during 1978.

I share your interest in seeing the Pact of San Jose enter into force in 1978, the 30th anniversary of The American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. It was in this spirit that President Carter himself made the gesture of signing the Pact of San Jose at OAS Headquarters here in Washington last June 1. I can inform you that the Department of State will soon be sending to the White House its comments on the text of the Pact and proposals for statements to be adopted by the Senate in advising and consenting to ratification. We anticipate that the President in turn will send a message to the Senate within the next few weeks asking for early advice and consent to ratification. From that moment on the matter will rest on the Senate. I hope that in line with our recommendations, advice and consent will be given. As part of our overall efforts to advance human rights in this hemisphere and the rest of the world, we plan to submit the American Convention on Human Rights to the Senate together with three pending United Nations' conventions on human rights.

Sincerely,

*James F. P. Lane*

The Honorable  
Dr. Andres Aguilar M.,  
Chairman; Inter-American Commission  
on Human Rights,  
Organization of American States  
Washington, D. C.

Drafted:USOAS:RFilling:ab  
Concurrences:

L/T:PMolson

Department of State, A/GIS/PS/SRP

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INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS 770177-1455  
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
COMISSÃO INTERAMERICANA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS  
COMMISSION INTERAMÉRICAIN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME 7729709



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 U.S.A.

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ACTION  
is assigned to

ARA

November 11, 1977

My dear Mr. Secretary:

On June 1 of this year President Carter launched a new offensive in the campaign to secure the ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights by signing the Pact of San José.

Since that time, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica have also signed the American Convention. In addition, three governments--Venezuela, Honduras and Haiti--have recently deposited their respective instruments of ratification or adhesion, thus bringing the number of ratifying states to five.

This coming year will mark the 30th anniversary of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the members of the Commission are hopeful that during the course of 1978 at least six other countries will ratify the American Convention so that its entry into force will coincide with the celebration of that anniversary.

Ratification by the United States would mark an important step forward on behalf of this important regional instrument for the international protection of human rights which, as President Carter stated when he signed the Convention, expresses "the aspirations that have existed among all our countries since the first governments were formed in North and South America."

Sincerely yours,

Andrés Aguilar M.  
Chairman

His Excellency Cyrus R. Vance  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S *ff*

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1 DEC 1977

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TO: The Secretary ✓

FROM: USOAS - Gale McGee *Gme*

SUBJECT: Dr. Aguilar's Letter Urging U.S. Ratification  
of the Pact of San Jose

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to send a reply to Dr. Aguilar's letter to you of November 11.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

Dr. Andres Aguilar, Chairman of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) wrote you on November 11 to urge that the United States ratify the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose) during 1978. It is the hope of the IACHR that the Convention can enter into force next year which will be the 30th anniversary of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.

The Department will be sending recommendations on ratification of the Pact of San Jose to the President in the next few days.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the reply at Tab 1 to Dr. Aguilar's letter.

Attachment:

Tab 1 - Letter to Dr. Aguilar

Tab 2 - Incoming Letter From Dr. Aguilar

Drafted: USOAS:RFilling:ab *ff*

Concurrences:

L/T: PMOlson *SA*

HA: EJones *md*

H: CCutter *CC*

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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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